(b) There are 30,378 No's paid pending applications for pump-sets connection as on 31.3.2009 in Vidarbha region. Out of which 25,370 numbers have completed formalities (*i.e.* submission of test report) and 11,876 numbers of Agricultural Pumps connections have been released so far up to 31st October, 2009. During the current financial year 2009-10 further directives have been issued to the field office to make all afforts to clear all pending cases as on 31.03.2009 in chronological order.

Drip irrigation

1686. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that in the countries like Israel where water is scarce, drip irrigation is being used successfully; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not encouraging it in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has already launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Micro Irrigation in January 2006 to install drip and sprinkler irrigation systems in the country. The scheme supports the following interventions:-

(i) Assistance @ 50% to all categories of farmers in the ratio of 40:10 shared between Central Government and State Government and remaining 50% is borne by the beneficiary either through his/her own resources or by availing soft loan from financial institution. An area of 8.02 lakh ha. has been achieved under drip irrigation.

(ii) Training and awareness programmes on drip technology for farmers, officials, financial institutions, NGOs and other stake holders.

(iii) Operational research on drip irrigation technology for various crops through 22 Precision Farming Development Centres.

(iv) Integration of drip irrigation with other plasticulture applications/technologies *viz.* greenhouse, mulching, low tunnel etc.

(v) Integration of Macro and Micro Irrigation in canal command area e.g. Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat.

Impact of climate change on agriculture

1687. SHRI D. RAJA:
SHRI R.C. SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the global climate change and the impact of the resultant high temperature on agriculture;